

STEAMER GREAT WESTERN.—This packet is now in her eighteenth day.

WAR WITH MEXICO.

Considerable excitement has been produced during the last few days, by the circulation of a rumor, that the Mexican government had declared war against Alleghania, soon after the receipt of the intelligence of the passage of the annexation resolutions had reached them. The rumor was originated in Washington by the Spanish chargé d'affaires, and an attack of color from the fact, that information had been received by Mr. Pakenham, the British Minister at Mexico, that he had been formally notified, in common with the representatives of other foreign powers, that in case the Senate should pass the resolutions then known to have passed the House, the act would be followed by the usual steps preliminary to a declaration of war. No communication of any hostile intentions on the part of Mexico, has been yet made to our government.

We may expect, however, very shortly to hear of a formal notification from the Mexican Government, to such citizens of Alleghania as may be resident within their territory, requiring them to leave the country; and it is not at all unlikely that the hostile feeling in Mexico may operate so strongly as to lead to some overt acts against the rights of those citizens, which cannot be redressed in the ordinary and pacific manner. The position which Mexico has assumed with regard to annexation, the character of the men who have at present the reins of power in that republic, and the peculiar condition of popular feeling towards this country, render it extremely probable that violent counsels may predominate, and that summarily setting aside all treaty stipulations, the Mexican Government may at once assume a directly hostile attitude.

The blustering bravado or actual hostility of Mexico, it need hardly be said, will amount to pretty much the same thing. There is little danger of such an encounter between the two countries as could be dignified with the title of a war. Any infraction of the rights of Alleghanian citizens in Mexico, will be chastised, and the injuries redressed, and annexation will be quietly effected. But still a great panic may be produced, and as much disturbance be created in the commercial and political world as if Mexico and Alleghania were really engaged in a bloody and highly respectable war. Every item of intelligence relative to Mexican affairs, thus becomes invested with the greatest interest, and we shall be enabled to keep our readers fully informed of all that transpires.

THE NEW CORPORATION AT WORK ALREADY.—THE "SPOILS" VERSUS "CITY REFORM."—Last night the newly elected Corporation held a caucus. The work of dividing the spoils was begun, but no progress was made. So numerous—so hungry—so ravenous were the applicants for office, whose claims were presented, that the caucus, with all the past experience of the members in the business, appeared to be perfectly appalled, and it was upwards of an hour before they even ventured to approach the work before them. Several nominations, however, were presented, and amongst them that of Mr. Charlick, as President of the Board of Aldermen. But nothing was definitely agreed upon, and it is calculated that at least twenty-five caucuses must be held before any reasonable portion of the labor of the new city government can be disposed of in a satisfactory manner. Already a division into three or four cliques is progressing very comfortably, and the prospect of squabbling and quarrelling opens with a degree of richness, quite unsurpassed in the recollection of the oldest inhabitant in the regions of corruption.

What a sad spectacle does all this present to the eyes of this community! Here we have the new Corporation, instead of honestly going to work for the purpose of discovering needed reforms, and devising the best means of accomplishing them, unblushingly meeting for the purpose of apportioning the spoils. Thus has this city been cursed from year to year. Party after party, and one set of men after another, have presented themselves to the people of this city, and appealed to them for their suffrages, under the most solemn pledges to give us a good city government, and uniformly, no sooner have they been elected, than they have proceeded with the utmost coolness and most unblushing effrontery to cast their pledges and promises to the winds, utterly neglecting the interests of the community, and acting entirely regardless of every thing except plunder.

We must confess that we were weak enough to hope that the members of the democratic Corporation just elected would have profited by the experience of former years, and that they would have made some effort to introduce a spirit of honesty, fidelity and reform with their administration of the city government. Already we are presented with melancholy evidence that the old dynasty has been restored with all its unfaithfulness to the public interests—all its disregard of every thing but the "spoils" of office.

During the past year we have virtually had no city government at all. The work of reform is still more necessary and more difficult than ever. Abuses have been increased and multiplied. The streets are in a worse condition than ever. The taxes are more burdensome than ever. The police department is in a state of greater disorganization and inefficiency than ever. The number of petty offenders is greater than ever. The low grog-shops are greater nuisances than ever. The gambling-houses—the brothels—the junk-shops for the sale of stolen property—the haunts of crime—the abodes of wretchedness and vice—have multiplied. The public health is seriously endangered by nuisances, which are more numerous and pestiferous than ever. The great city of New York, indeed, exhibits at this moment an example of the evil effects of corruption, dishonesty, and inefficient government, which is disgraced beyond description. With its filthy and dilapidated streets—with its miserable police—with its swollen criminal calendar—with its enormous load of taxation, the metropolis of the Union does indeed present a spectacle on which the philanthropist may well look with pity and horror.

And yet with the necessity of reform—impressed upon them by every cloud of dust which suffocates the unfortunate traveller in Broadway—by every police report which they take up in the morning—and by the useful countenance of every taxpayer whom they meet—the new Corporation, one and all, set to work to quarrel about the spoils, on which they and their hangers-on rush with the ravenous impetuosity of a pack of hungry hounds let loose upon a dead carcass! We are, indeed, almost ready to give up every hope of ever obtaining an honest, practical and salutary administration of the city affairs. The only resource now left the people of this city, appears to be in a complete re-organization of the municipal government. Once more we would appeal to the new Corporation. If there be not honesty and integrity enough amongst them to check that rapacity and utter disregard of the public interest which already appear likely to characterize their conduct, let us hope that there is at least a sense of self-interest which will prompt them to such a course of policy as may preserve them from the overwhelming indignation of the community. We shall, however, watch all their movements, and act accordingly.

NEWARK ELECTION.—Whig Mayor and Recorder of Newark for the ensuing year were elected on Monday.

Dr. The Hon. Daniel Webster, who has been at the Astor House since his return from Albany, returns this day to his seat at Marshfield, Mass.

NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS AT WASHINGTON.—A

SECRET many rumors have been floating about within the last few days, relative to appointments to the government offices in this city. The Collectorship and all the other important offices have been disposed of, Mr. Coddington being comfortably installed in the customs house, and sundry other appointments provided for in the same manner. All this is mere rumor, without any foundation. The subject of the New York appointments has not been yet even formally introduced into the Cabinet Councils, and the statements which have appeared are altogether gratuitous, and intended only for effect. Several deputations from this city have proceeded to Washington for the purpose of inducing Mr. Polk to make certain changes and appointments, but he refused point blank to entertain any of those propositions before the election; and although the disinterested and patriotic endeavors of the office-seeking delegations have been renewed with fresh vigor since that event, the whole subject still remains in statu quo.

The great object of assault by the mendicant cliques, is the Collectorship of the port. Every possible expedient has been resorted to for the purpose of procuring the ejecment of the present excellent incumbent, Governor Van Ness. If important, such as has been rarely brought into play, could out the Collector, Mr. Van Ness would have gone weeks ago, but thus far the President is altogether unmoved. Whether he will consent to be at last badgered into the removal of the present incumbent, and the throwing open of the Custom House to the ravenous cliques that are besieging the administration, remains to be seen. We are inclined to believe, however, from the indications, significant enough, which have been already afforded as to the future policy and course of Mr. Polk's administration, that the importance of the New York office be gars will fall short of its reward, so far as the Collectorship is concerned.

It is a very queer idea, which is fondly cherished in some quarters, that Van Burenian is to be restored. Neither Van Burenian, nor Calhounian, nor Cassian, nor Bentonian, nor any other *ism*, except Polkian, is to be in the ascendant in the administration for the next four years. That's certain. Mr. Polk is slowly, cautiously, and with great tact and success taking the machinery of the democratic party to pieces, reconstructing it, rejecting the old worn out portions, and useless appendages, and fabricating a new, serviceable and powerful engine, over which he himself means to assume and maintain the entire control. He has in fact adopted and is carrying out that sagacious policy, which a able politician in Grecian story, advised and illustrated, when he took into his garden the messenger sent to consult him on the best means of freeing the State from civil discord and demagoguism, and silently lopped off the heads of all the tallest poppies. The noisy, scheming, intriguing, ravenous leaders of petty cliques are to be set aside, but the working men are to be retained and attached to the administration. There is very little reason, indeed, to imagine that the Collectorship of New York—one of the most important and influential posts under the government—will be permitted to become the nucleus of a clique which could, by any possibility, engage in business on its own account, independent of the administration. The whole course of the new administration thus far, indicates a settled determination to organize and sustain a strong, united, and practical administration party. Those who prophesy changes and appointments, must therefore, mingle this bit of philosophy with their vaticinations. "As the bell is, so is the clapper."

STEAMER SWALLOW, &c.—We see it stated that the officers of the Swallow have taken charge of the Albany, and that the A. is to run in the night! This change has been effected while the dead bodies of the Swallow are yet floating about in the river! This ought not to be. Those who had charge of the Swallow are to answer for the loss of that boat, and it is an outrage to place them in command of another steamer, until after the dead are removed out of their way.

PUNISHMENT OF THE OWNERS OF THE SWALLOW.—The owners of the Swallow are, according to law, liable for all lives and property lost by the destruction of this boat.

JUSTICE DRINKER.—The County Court will sit on Tuesday next, when the trial of this Justice, charged with malfeasance in office, will commence. There are no less than fourteen charges against the Justice.

LONG ISLAND RAILROAD.—The train from Boston arrived last evening in nine hours and fifty minutes at the Brooklyn depot, with two hundred passengers. We are indebted to Mr. Tucker, its gentlemanly conductor, for late Boston papers.

APRIL SNOW STORM.—One week ago from last Tuesday, a snow storm visited the vicinity of Dover, Me., and blocked up the roads with drifts, some of which were four feet deep.

MYSTERY SIGNAL FIRES.—The Philadelphia papers mention that signal fires are frequently seen burning in New Jersey, and they seem anxious to ascertain what they mean? We suppose that they have about as much to do with "lottery drawing" as with anything else. The *Esquire* of yesterday says:

"We are informed that signal fires at night are now quite common in New Jersey—across which state, information and communications are constantly flitting with a mystic and phantom like speed and secrecy. We noticed the light on the 'Butte' last night, and some of our friends and we have since learnt that telegraphic intelligence is conveyed, not only from New York to this city—but also from New York to New Jersey, and from New Jersey to the transmission of news to Baltimore, in Mt. Ephraim, from which the lights are responded to, on one or two occasions, sometimes of a cheerful and some times of a pale yellow—and on heights that are lonely and embosomed in woods. We have heard a rumor that the light on the 'Butte' is a signal for the 'lottery drawing' and we have since learnt that telegraphic intelligence is conveyed, not only from New York to this city—but also from New York to New Jersey, and from New Jersey to the transmission of news to Baltimore, in Mt. 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